

LARUS RESIDENCE WRECKED BY FIRE

Children Safely Removed
Before Call Was Sent
for Help.

FOUGHT HARD IN SNOWSTORM

Heroic Work by Firemen Pre-
vented Spread of Flames to
Taylor Home, Which Was in
Danger—Loss Will Reach
\$20,000—Caught From
Defective Flue.

The residence of Charles D. Larus, 623 Seminary Avenue, Glinter Park, was entirely destroyed by fire at 6 o'clock last night, entailing a loss of approximately \$20,000, while priceless heirlooms were given as prey to the devouring flames. To-day Mr. Larus and his family, consisting of his wife and two children, are at the residence of his mother, Mrs. C. D. Larus, 811 Seminary Avenue, where they will remain until plans can be made for rebuilding.

While the financial loss is considerable, both Mr. Larus and his wife are compensated for the destruction of their home by the thought that their two children were saved. The blaze started from a defective flue at the open fire-place of the ante-bellum type, by which the children were playing. While Mr. Larus was asleep upstairs, a shrill cry was heard from below. It frightened by holding flames and smoke, realized that the children were in danger. Charles D. Larus, Jr., four years old, and Anne Harrison, two years old, united their vocal efforts of terror with the colored maid. Mr. Larus was roused from his slumbers, while his wife, Robert Strickland, rushed down the stairs.

Called on City for Help.
Without thought of the damage to their home, both Mr. and Mrs. Larus gave their first attention to the safety of their children. They were removed to the home of their grandmother, after which a telephone message was sent to Hunter B. Frischkorn, chief of the Glinter Park Fire Department, for help. The department answered at once, but before it arrived the fire had eaten its way up the broad flue to the attic, and the help of the Richmond department was at once asked.

Captain T. H. Davis, in charge of Engine Company No. 10, with his lieutenant, George H. Davis, responded. The fire was plainly in sight, but no facilities for pumping it. The Richmond help made this possible, but not with hope of saving the structure. The flames had made such headway that while the Richmond department was crossing the bridge all hope was lost, despite an exceptionally fast run from the city. Work was then centered on saving the home of Charles G. Taylor, next door.

Fortunately, though by great effort, this residence was left intact. Smoking waves at times pointed to its destruction, but a timely stream from an inch and a half nozzle prevented it. Not to be caught unprepared, Mr. Taylor, with the aid of friends, had removed all of the furniture and other valuables to the home of nearby friends.

In Blinding Snowstorm.
A blinding snow storm raged during the fire. Workers at the fire, and engines were chilled from the frigid blasts. But for the fact that a home was being destroyed, the hundreds of onlookers, who braved both the cold from beneath and the cold from the winds which hurriedly and breathed through the adjoining trees, might have revelled in the really glorious sight. A picture of the dwelling might have told some of the story, but words could convey no idea of the multitudinous colors which ran riot through the ice and snow and flames.

Firemen suffered. Although Glinter Park people supplied smoking hot coffee and other stimulants to ease the pangs of the polar weather. The fire-fighters drank the warming cups and went back to their task, hopeless though it was, with renewed energy. The fire simply spent itself after having devoured everything which could be burned.

The Larus residence was of the colonial type of construction, with wide verandas and immense rooms, containing broad, open fireplaces. The house was stucco-built, with a facing of concrete and the inner sections of wood. The flames, being fanned by the winds, found a ready way to the roof. When the Glinter Park department arrived it was wholly without power to render effective aid, and by the time the Richmond department had made the long and dangerous trip the flames had attained such headway as to make it impossible to save the building.

The loss is partially covered by insurance, carried with Davenport & Company, though Mr. Larus was unable to give a definite estimate of the loss, either as to the amount of the damages through which it was placed. The nearest he could come to the approximate loss was \$20,000.

Brave Work by Firemen.
Though deplored the destruction of his home, Mr. Larus, together with his wife, is thankful that no lives were lost, and that his children were saved. All of his neighbors offered assistance, and there were numbers of friends who visited Richmond in many years, they stood bravely at their post of duty and poured water at the rate of 450 gallons a minute into the seething cauldron. Nor can too much praise be given to the water department of Glinter Park. The flow was always sufficient, despite the fact that it was Sunday night, when most of the men connected with the plant were off.

However, a number of men living in

(Continued on seventh page.)

ARMISTICE HAS BEEN EXTENDED

Manchus Given Two
Weeks More in Which
to Abdicate.

PREMIER MAY GO WITH THE COURT

Continuance in Office Depends on
Success of Efforts for Foreign
Loan—Sun Yat Sen Deter-
mined That Power of Pres-
ent Dynasty Shall Be
Obliterated.

London, January 14.—According to a Shanghai dispatch the armistice has been extended for two weeks to give the Manchus an opportunity to abdicate.

The same dispatch says that two Chinese entered the French hospital at Shanghai yesterday, and walking into a ward where a prominent revolutionist was lying wounded, shot him. In the confusion which followed, the men escaped. The crime was the result, it is said, of factional jealousy.

Hopes for Loan.
Peking, January 14.—It is understood that the Imperial Premier, Yuan Shi Kai, has referred the proposed abdication to certain foreign powers in the hope of inducing the withdrawal of the opposition heretofore placed in the way of raising a foreign loan. If not successful it is believed Yuan Shi Kai will retire simultaneously with the court.

The republicans are not yet aware of the Manchus' decision to ask for an extension of the armistice for a fortnight. An official communication says that many large wells in Shen-Si province are filled with the bodies of women, principally Manchus, who cast themselves into the wells to escape outrage or murder.

First Step Toward Peace.

Nanking, January 14.—President Sun Yat Sen received the news of the pending abdication of the Emperor quietly. He said he was pleased to learn that the first step towards the pacification and reorganization of the country had been taken. He anticipated some delay in the readjustment of affairs and added that it was quite possible that Yuan Shi Kai might be president of the new republic. He would resign when the Manchus government had been ousted and peace completely restored throughout the country. The first stage would necessitate a military government under which order could be secured and the republicans were determined that the old regime of corruption must be abolished and the people of China permitted to earn the full reward of their labor.

President Sun said he would proceed with the work of organization. Evidently he was determined not to listen to dictation from Peking. The future government of China must be carefully considered. Yuan Shi Kai could not be regarded as the dictator of terms.

It would be senseless, he continued, to hinder the semblance of peace, and he declared that his public statement was directed toward the establishment of permanent good government. The mere abdication of the court, said the president, was not sufficient in itself. The Manchus army must be disbanded. Yuan Shi Kai must pledge adherence to the form of government adopted by the national convention. Sun Yat Sen added that he earnestly desired peace, but before peace could be assured all semblance of Manchus power must be renounced, formally and publicly.

Invasion Reported.

London, January 14.—A report that Russia has invaded Mongolia is contained in an Odessa dispatch to the Daily Mail. There is no confirmation of this from any source.

The Peking correspondent of the Times understands that when terms are arranged the throne will abdicate by edict issued in the name of the Empress Dowager. This will give Yuan Shi Kai an opportunity of coming to terms with the republican government and of uniting with the republicans to form a provisional government, able to restore order and to obtain foreign recognition pending the decision of the national convention.

Hebels Are Defeated.

Hankow, January 14.—The Imperialists on Sunday defeated the Shen-Si rebel column which is invading Honan. Twenty-five thousand revolutionaries are moving from Wu-Chang towards Shaokan, the Imperial base on the Peking-Hankow railway.

CUSTOM HOUSE STORMED

Mexicans Angered by Collection of Duties.

El Paso, Texas, January 14.—A mob of hundreds of excited and angry Mexicans gathered from the Plaza at Ciudad Juarez to march to the custom house in a demonstration against Collector of Customs Arguello.

An attempt to enter the building was frustrated by employees armed with rifles, and the police persuaded the mob to retire. The trouble arose over the collection of duty on flour and coal oil bought in El Paso.

Kurds Attack Russians.

St. Petersburg, January 14.—A Jugoslavitch says that Kurds attacked a Russian regiment marching from Khoni in Northern Persia, to Urmah.

Twenty Kurds were killed, but the Russians suffered no losses.

Italians Lose Heavily.

London, January 14.—No news was received to-day from the seat of war in Tripoli except the report from Turkish sources that the Italian neighborhood of Homs, in which the Italians are said to have lost heavily.

BRYAN CHALLENGE HAS BEEN TAKEN UP

Wool Switched to Let
Steel Revision
Proceed.

ASPERION CAST ON UNDERWOOD

Nebraskan Had Ascribed Per-
sonal Motives to Democratic
House Leader in His Hand-
ling of Tariff—Threefold
Probe Into Big Trusts
Starts This Week.

Washington, January 14.—A caucus of the House Democrats on the iron and steel tariff schedule is likely before the end of this week. The Ways and Means Committee, as soon as the already completed pension appropriation bill is passed by the House, will be ready to report the iron and steel schedule revision to the caucus for approval, particularly with a view to giving steel the right of way in the tariff proceedings in the House.

Even the cynical steel trade bids fair to precede the wool tariff revision, for wool has been switched to let steel revision proceed. This is a virtual acceptance of the challenge of William J. Bryan, who, during the extra session, ascribed to Democratic Leader Underwood personal motives in putting other revisions ahead of steel.

To Probe Trusts.
A threefold probe into gigantic trusts will be started by the House Committee on Rules to-morrow, when the first of a series of hearings lasting several days will cover the activities of the money trust, shipping combine and the International Harvester Company. All three are to be considered together with respect to the Rules Committee's consideration of the question of reporting resolutions looking to thorough congressional investigation of these trusts.

The financial interests of New York are largely interested in the matter. Attorney-General Wickham, Secretary of Commerce and Labor Nagel, and Samuel Untermyer, of New York, have been asked to appear before the committee to-morrow for examination regarding the alleged shipping combination, which is claimed to control trans-oceanic traffic.

Most of the Democrats and several of the Republicans on the committee have expressed themselves in favor of a sweeping investigation of the financial control of American industrial and commercial affairs. Meantime, the Senate Committee on Interstate Commerce expects to wind up this week its series of hearings on trust problems, without any certainty as to the reporting of a bill on the subject.

All this week Panama Canal control and management will figure in hearings by the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, which is to report legislation at this session fixing the tolls and regulations. Captain Charles A. McAllister, chief engineer of the revenue cutler service, to-morrow will appear to discuss regulations for the measurement of tonnage of ships.

Urged to Be Present.
Absent Senators have been urged by telegram to be here Tuesday, when the Senate Committee will vote on the large tariff bill. There are no indications that the Senate is any nearer to settle this question than when the unsuccessful effort was made for the extension of the session, the obstacle still being the lack of agreement between the regulars and Progressive Republicans.

The arbitration treaties with Great Britain and France will come up in the Senate to-morrow. A move is on foot to have them considered in executive session so as to hold off protracted debate and oratory. Senator Lorimer, of Illinois, will resume his defense to-morrow before the Senate Committee that is investigating his election. He probably will be on the witness stand most of the week. The House committee on steel trusts will continue its hearings to-morrow, and the House committee on the sugar trust will continue its hearings. Senator Borah, of Idaho, has planned to press his bill for the creation of a child labor bureau. Friends of the measure claim they can muster a two-thirds vote of the Senate.

CHANCE FOR DEMOCRAT

Member of Minority May Be Elected President of Senate.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
Washington, January 14.—Notices have been sent out by Senator Martin, of Virginia, minority leader, to all absent members to be on hand Tuesday for the purpose of electing a president to succeed the late Senator Frye, who recently died. The Democrats, it is learned here to-night, will make a strong effort to elect a man from their ranks. It will be remembered that soon after Senator Frye died the Senate voted for several weeks on this question, but without result. At that time Senator Bacon, of Georgia, appeared to be the choice of the Democrats, and it is not improbable that he may be elected now. If Senator Martin can pull half a dozen votes from among the Republicans, the Senate now is so nearly Democratic that it will take very few Republican votes to elect a man from among the members of the latter party.

Just what the plan of the Democrats is to secure the necessary votes from the Republicans is not yet known, but it is more than likely that the former will caucus to-morrow in the hope of being able to agree upon some scheme which will get the necessary number of votes from the Republicans. A minority leader, this work will devolve upon Senator Martin. Should a Southern Senator not be able to land a compromise may be agreed upon in favor of Senator Shively, of Indiana.

(Continued on seventh page.)

WILSON'S SLATED FOR POST AT PARIS

He Will Succeed Bacon
as Ambassador to
France.

REPORT HAS NOT BEEN CONFIRMED

Assistant Secretary of State Has
Been Very Close to Knox, and
His Appointment Is Consider-
ed Certain—Thomas C.
Dawson to Succeed
Him.

Washington, January 14.—Huntington Wilson, Assistant Secretary of State, is to succeed Robert Bacon as ambassador to France, according to persistent rumors in diplomatic circles here to-day. Thomas C. Dawson, resident diplomatic officer of the State Department, whose name was mentioned prominently in connection with the post of ambassador to Brazil, to which Edward W. Morgan was named, will be made Assistant Secretary of State, the same rumors say.

State Department officials refused to comment on the matter or declared that it was news to them. "I have nothing to say," said Mr. Wilson, "but Mr. Dawson's only comment, Mr. Dawson professed ignorance. Nevertheless the possible appointments were widely discussed to-day among the diplomats here. One of them declared that he did not know that Mr. Wilson had been named, but he was positive that Mr. Wilson was being considered for the ambassadorial post.

Mr. Bacon resigned a few days ago because he had been elected a fellow of Harvard University. Mr. Wilson, as Assistant Secretary of State, has been in the present administration, has been particularly close to Secretary Knox, who is known to think highly of him. During this time Mr. Wilson has taken from the shoulders of Mr. Knox much of the burden of important affairs, and has been acting as secretary on a number of occasions.

Previous to becoming Assistant Secretary, he was for several years third assistant, and before that served for nearly ten years on the American embassy at Tokyo as secretary and charge d'affaires. Mr. Wilson has been fifteen years of diplomatic service, having been secretary and charge d'affaires of the then American legation in Brazil, later minister to Santo Domingo, Colombia and Chile, and since 1910, in charge of the American division and resident diplomatic officer of the State Department.

DOMESTIC TRAGEDY

Tampa Man Shoots Father-in-Law, and Is Killed by Latter's Son.

Tampa, Fla., January 14.—Incensed because his wife, from whom he had been separated six months, received a young man called this afternoon, V. D. Moore, shot and fatally wounded his father-in-law, J. R. Robinson, at the Robinson home in Arcadia, near here, and was instantly killed by Robinson's son. The son, John L. Robinson, is wounded, but not fatally.

The elder Robinson is the president of the Gardner Lumber Company, one of the largest firms in the State. Moore married the daughter of Robinson about a year ago, but they became separated six months later. The elder Robinson brought Moore to his home to-day in the hope of effecting a reconciliation between the estranged couple.

The trouble is alleged to have been precipitated by the arrival of a young man, whose identity is being concealed to call on Mrs. Moore. This, it is claimed, aroused the anger of Moore, who 'said to have abused the entire Robinson family.

Robinson ordered the angry husband from the house, whereupon the son-in-law fired three shots at the elder Robinson, and one at his son, all taking effect. Young Robinson secured a revolver and shot Moore, killing him instantly. The elder Robinson is not seriously injured. Young Robinson is not badly wounded.

The young man, who is alleged to have been the cause of the tragedy, left the house when the first shot was fired.

PEACE IS IN SIGHT

Employers and Operatives Are Getting Together.

London, January 14.—All indications to-night show that peace in the labor world. Both sides in the cotton dispute in the Lancashire districts are anxious for a settlement. It is understood that the employers will consent to consider the question of an advance in wages in conjunction with the withdrawal of the operatives' demand for recognition of only union labor. If an agreement is reported it is probable that the wages of the weavers will advance five per cent. at the expiration of three months.

Passenger Train Freezes to Rails

Lynchburg, Va., January 14.—A rare incident in the history of railroading in Virginia occurred on the Norfolk and Western Railroad here to-day, when the Washington-Chantanooga fast train actually froze to the rails. Stopping in a snow, the dripping water from the pipes caught the wheels, and the temperature being below zero, the train was locked so securely in the ice that it required the use of three engines to move it, bumping from the rear being resorted to. It was two and a half hours before the train could be moved, and it reached the Bristol seven hours late.

UNCLE SAM TO OWN TELEGRAPH LINES

That Is, if Hitchcock's
Proposal Is Received
Favorably.

ADD SYSTEM TO POSTAL SERVICE

Postmaster-General Convinced
That Example of Foreign Coun-
tries Should Be Followed, and
That It Would Result in
Great Benefit to
People.

Washington, January 14.—Acquisition of the telegraph lines of the United States by the government and their operation as a part of the postal service will be recommended to Congress in a short time by Postmaster-General Hitchcock.

For a year or more Mr. Hitchcock has had this recommendation under consideration. After a thorough study of the operation of government controlled telegraph lines and postal telegraph systems of foreign countries, he has decided to urge the matter upon Congress.

"Should this recommendation be adopted," said Mr. Hitchcock to-night in a statement of his intention, "I am convinced it would result in important economies and very materially lower telegraph rates than now are exacted. In approximately fifty countries of the world, notably in Great Britain, France, Germany, Austria, Spain, Russia and Japan—government controlled telegraphs now are in successful and profitable operation. In many of the countries they are operated in conjunction with the postal service. These telegraphs serve an aggregate population of 950,000,000, and in every instance they have been found to be of immense practical benefit to the people in both promptitude and cost of the service.

Present Expense Needless.

"In this country post-offices are maintained in numerous places not reached by the telegraph systems, and the proposed consolidation, therefore, would afford a favorable opportunity for the wide extension of the telegraphic facilities. In many of the towns where the telegraph companies have offices, the telegraph and mail business could be handled readily by the separate maintenance of the two services under present conditions results in a needless expense.

"The first telegraph in the United States was operated from 1844 to 1847 by the Navy Department, under authority from Congress and from many viewpoints it is desirable that government control should be resumed. A method for the acquisition of telegraph lines is prescribed in section 5267 of the Revised Statutes, which provides that, for postal, military or other purposes, the government may purchase telegraph lines, operated in the United States, at an appraised value.

My own view is that every reason for the transmission of mail by government control can be urged with equal force for the transmission of communications by telegraph. Because of the more extensive organization maintained by the postal service and the freedom from private enterprise charges to which private corporations are subject, the government undoubtedly could afford greater facilities, at lower rates, than are afforded by companies now operating the telegraph business. Next to the introduction of a general parcels post, for which there is a strong popular demand, the establishment of a government telegraph system offers, in my judgment, the best opportunity for the profitable extension of the national postal service.

Telephones Not Included.
It is not Mr. Hitchcock's purpose to recommend the acquisition of telephone lines, except, possibly, in instances where they are operated as telegraph lines and are an integral part of definite telegraph systems.

The latest census figures available indicate that about 100,000 people are connected with the telegraph companies of the United States. The appraised value of the systems proposed to be acquired would be purely conjectural. It is said it would approximate \$250,000,000. The experts who have figured on the proposition are of the opinion that the existing telegraph rates could be reduced at least one-third to the public and yet make the investment in and operation of the lines profitable to the government.

Urges Parcels Post.

Washington, January 14.—The establishment of parcels post delivery along rural mail routes should not be delayed any longer in the opinion of P. V. De Graw, Fourth Assistant Postmaster-General, as expressed in his annual report, submitted to-day to Postmaster-General Hitchcock.

"Every consideration of practicability, absolute expediency and good administration," he says, "favors the plan of being a probable source of large revenue and great public accommodation."

Mr. De Graw bases his recommendations for a parcels post on the ground that the expenditure for rural service is increasing much more rapidly than the receipts, and the parcels post, he says, would provide much additional revenue. During the past year the rural mail receipts were \$7,570,000, while the expenditures were \$37,130,000. For the present year there has been an appropriation of \$42,500,000, while it is not expected that there will be any appreciable increase in receipts. This loss will become greater each year, he says, unless a parcels post is established to help.

There are at present more than 1,000,000 miles of rural mail routes and the average mileage per day for each carrier is 24.19 miles. During the past year 577 routes were added, making 13,000,000 letters and parcels were received at the local letter office during the year, the daily receipts averaging 44,500 places, an increase over the previous year of 8 per cent.

BUNDER IS MADE; CABINET RESIGNS

Spanish Premier's Views
Differ From Those
of King.

STRIKE KILLING CAUSES TROUBLE

Canalejas Realizes He Has Made
Political Mistake and Insists
That His Resignation Be Ac-
cepted—Because of Situa-
tion in Morocco Crisis
Is Grave.

Madrid, January 14.—The Spanish Cabinet, of which Jose Canalejas y Mendes was Premier, resigned to-day. The Cabinet resigned as the result of a divergence of views with King Alfonso as to the advisability of commuting the death sentence of one of the rioters, who murdered a judge and wounded several court officials in the town of Cullera, province of Valencia, last September. The general strike at that time in Valencia and other provinces involved a plot to assassinate General Weyler, and the king was compelled to suspend the constitutional guarantees.

The trial of the strikers concerned in the Cullera murder has engendered public attention to the exclusion of all else for some time past, thanks to the skillful campaign of the radicals, who seized upon the affair as a weapon to attack the government in the same way as they utilized the refusal to relieve Francisco Ferrer, director of the modern school, who was executed for his part in the overthrow of the Maura Cabinet.

Realizing that it was a sordid crime and that the accused men were impossible objects of sympathy the radicals raised a false issue, accusing the government of all sorts of tortures and cruelties toward the prisoners. Consequently the agitation spread with rapidity and caused great concern to Premier Canalejas.

The rioters were first tried before a military court last month, and six of them were sentenced to death. The case then went to the Supreme Council of War and Marine for revision, and the council condemned all seven prisoners to death. Numerous petitions in favor of a reprieve have flowed in ever since the first trial, and it was evident that the whole nation was taking full cognizance of the case. Premier Canalejas advised the King to exercise his prerogative in the case of six of the prisoners, but held that the seventh, Chato Chiqueta, should be made an example of in the interest of law and order. The agitation had by this time reached formidable proportions, the Barcelona radicals issuing a decree calling for a general verdict if Chiqueta was executed Monday, the date fixed for his death. The Premier, in his own way, then realized that the exclusion of Chiqueta from a reprieve was a political blunder, and, learning that the King was of the same opinion, he went with his colleagues to the palace, where the king declared that he favored a reprieve for Chiqueta.

Insists on Resignation.
Premier Canalejas said he deferred to His Majesty's judgment, and would prepare a decree to that effect without delay, but, considering as he did it was his duty to make a mistake, he was his duty to resign. The King, King Alfonso urged him to consider his determination, but he remained firm.

The ministerial crisis at the moment of the Franco-Spanish negotiations on Morocco is of exceptional gravity, and the King has lost no time in consulting with the leading statesmen. He conferred in turn with General Montero Rios, president of the Cortes; Ex-Premier Moret y Prendergast and Ex-Premier Maura, all of whom agreed that the Liberals should remain in power. They urged the King to try to prevail upon Senor Canalejas to return.

The reprieve of Chiqueta has had an excellent effect throughout the country, which yesterday was aroused when it was learned that the King and his ministry had failed to reach an agreement on that question.

The King received Senor Canalejas to-night, and again asked him to resume the premiership, assuring him of continued confidence. Senor Canalejas asked for time to reflect, promising to give his reply to-morrow.

PARSON A "WILD CATTER"

Pastor of Three Churches Had Moon-
shine Still.

Nashville, Tenn., January 14.—Rev. Joseph R. Smith, of Sewanee, was brought to Nashville to-day, after having been bound over yesterday to the April term of Federal Court on a charge of making moonshine whiskey. At the preliminary hearing Smith pleaded guilty to the charge.

Smith for several months has been the regular pastor of three small churches in the Nashville area. His "wild cat" was located in the woods, a few yards from the parsonage, and less than a quarter of a mile from his principal church. The outfit destroyed by the officers was complete, and nearly 100 gallons of beer and mash were found.

The "wild catter" parson was caught only after an all-night chase. He claims that he did not know it was a violation of the law to make whiskey, but knew it was wrong to drink it. He also stated that he had never sold any of his whiskey, but had given some of it to a few of his members for medical purposes.

Accepts Call to Greenville.

Newport, R. I., January 14.—Rev. George W. Quick, for six years pastor of the Second Baptist Church, has accepted a call to the First Baptist Church of Greenville, S. C.

RICHMOND TO GET CLEAR AND COLDER

WEATHER TO-DAY

MERCURY DROPS TO SIX- TENTHS OF ONE DEGREE BELOW ZERO.

COLDEST SINCE
FEBRUARY, 1899

No Immediate Relief Promised
by Bureau, Storm Still Holding
Whole Country in Its Grasp.
Snow Comes With Dark-
ness—More Promised.
Suffering Intense.

When the official thermometer at the Weather Bureau on Chimborazo Hill went down to six-tenths of 1 degree below zero at 6:30 o'clock yesterday morning and halted there, it registered the coldest weather experienced in Richmond in thirteen years. The most severe weather ever known in the history of the bureau was on February 19, 1899, the mercury on that date dropping to the same low point. That storm lives in history. The present storm is making it, while the whole city is suffering and shivering and hoping that the end is near.

Director Evans was of the opinion that the cold wave, the backbone of the storm, is broken, although Washington at 11 o'clock last night sent this prediction for to-day: "Clearing Monday probably preceded by snow in early morning; colder at night; Tuesday, fog and colder; moderate, variable winds, becoming brisk northwest."

First Snow Still Here.
The first edge of the present cold wave struck Richmond on January 3, since which time there has been little change for the better. The first snow is still on the ground—only it has turned to ice. At 6 o'clock last night, when snow began falling again, a slight rain fell, and the snow melted. It proved that the weather was not warmer. The fall continued for about an hour, fully an inch being measured. From all parts of the city there came the same story of trouble and suffering. Frozen, hundreds of homes were completely cut off, the telephone service in many sections is crippled, and there is a mighty wall of distress everywhere. Numbers agreed that it would take fully two weeks to restore conditions to normal, with the restoration demands from all quarters, which must take their turn. The James River is almost ice-bound, only the night steamer, the Old Dominion Line, being able to plow its way through, while the city tug has been battling for days to keep the channel clear.

The fire scare has made people unusually cautious, but the entire department is on duty yesterday ready to take full cognizance of the situation. At 6 o'clock last night through immediate help, and while nearby property was saved, the residence of Charles D. Larus was utterly wrecked by the flames.

Problem to Help Poor.
The Associated Charities, as usual, worked hard to relieve distress, but that organization has depleted its funds, and is crying loudly for help from the citizens, who cannot continue to save those who cannot save themselves. Just one man has frozen to death in this town in seventeen years, and the Associated Charities is doing its best to protect others from a similar fate, while this terrible weather continues.

In most of the churches yesterday services were held as usual, but many of the night meetings were called off, and in some instances Sunday school plans were abandoned. The streets were dangerous. Although the police department has haled a handful of people to court for failing to clean the sidewalks in front of their homes, practically no attention has been paid to the law, and it is only in a rare spot that a person can walk in perfect safety.

To add to the troubles, already piled high, it was impossible in many homes yesterday to prepare breakfast. Cooks failed to appear, and frozen water pipes made it impossible to get water. There were a number of explosions, but the damage was trifling and no fatalities were reported.

Watch Gas and Water.
Superintendent Davis, of the Water Department, kept a close eye on the situation, his reports last night showing that conditions were slightly better than on Saturday. Mr. Knowles said he had more pressure, but so much gas was being consumed that it was difficult for him to supply the demand. South Richmond had its usual water supply, and was relieved of the fear which gripped it on Saturday.

Director Evans was cut off from all communication with the city by telephone, although hundreds of people tried to get his office to find the lowest mark reached by the mercury. There will be no balmy spring weather to-day, but it can hardly be expected to outdo the damage already recorded.

What Records Show.

The most severe period of cold weather ever recorded by the Weather Bureau at Richmond set in on February 5, 1899, and continued for twelve days, ending with a change to normal on February 17. The lowest temperature observed during that period was 3 degrees below zero, on February 10, and the average for all hours in the entire period, the lowest reading being six-tenths of a degree below zero, at 6:30 A. M. yesterday, and the average of the period 23 degrees. This average, however, is computed from the records of thirteen days of successive cold, as compared with twelve successive days of the 1899 record, so that in point of